

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better U.S. form, and the informalities pointed out by the Examiner in items 5 and 7 of the Office Action have been corrected. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered, and that the objections to the claims and the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 13, 20, 22, 23, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2002/0033296 ("Rothmuller et al"), and claims 11, 13, 21, 26, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Rothmuller et al and USP 6,118,480 ("Anderson et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an image reproduction apparatus is provided

which is connectable to a memory configured to record photographed image data and photographing information of the photographed image data in association with each other. As recited in amended claim 1, the image reproduction apparatus comprises a display, a first display control unit configured to set a given number of display areas on the display which are each assignable to one of a plurality of different image groups, and a display area selection unit configured to select from among the display areas, based on the photographing information recorded in the memory, a display area to which an image group including the photographed image data recorded in the memory is assigned. In addition, as recited in amended claim 1, a second display control unit is configured to display in the selected display area the photographed image data of the image group assigned to the selected display area, and a third display control unit is configured to limit a number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area to a predetermined number. Still further, as recited in amended claim 1, a fourth display control unit is configured to display other photographed image data in the image group assigned to the selected display area and not included within the predetermined number, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, while maintaining display control of the first, second and third display control units.

Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 23, an image reproduction apparatus is provided which is connectable to a memory configured to record a plurality of photographed image data. As recited in amended claim 23, the image reproduction apparatus comprises a display, a classification unit configured to classify the plurality of photographed image data recorded in the memory into a plurality of different groups in accordance with a predetermined condition, and a first display control unit configured to simultaneously display, on the display, the plurality of photographed image data classified into the plurality of different groups by the classification unit. In addition, as recited in amended claim 23, a second display control unit is configured to limit the number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group to a predetermined number, and a third display control unit is configured to display other photographed image data included in each group and not displayed within the predetermined number of simultaneously displayed photographed image data, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group, while maintaining the display control of the first and second display control units.

Independent claims 32 and 33, moreover, recite a method and computer program corresponding to the apparatus of amended claim 1.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33, when a calendar having a plurality of photographed image data assigned to a plurality of different dates is viewed, for example, the user is enabled to recognize all of the images taken on a certain day while recognizing the shooting on any day in the calendar view display.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Rothmuller et al nor Anderson et al discloses, teaches or suggests the features of the fourth display control unit/step of amended independent claims 1, 32 and 33, and that neither Rothmuller nor Anderson discloses, teaches or suggests the features of the third display control unit of amended independent claim 23.

With the structure and method of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, 32 and 33, if the first, second and third display control units/steps are urged to execute the calendar view display shown in Fig. 4 of Rothmuller et al, for example, a photographed image displayed in the June 18, 2001 display area is controlled to be replaced with another image taken on the same date. That is, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 32 and 33, the fourth display control unit/step controls display of other photographed image data in an image group assigned to a selected display area and not included within a predetermined number (which may be one, for example), by

changing the predetermined number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in the selected display area, while maintaining display control of the first, second and third display control units/steps.

Similarly, with the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 23, if the first and second display control units are urged to execute the calendar view display shown in Fig. 4 of Rothmuller et al, for example, a photographed image displayed in the June 18, 2001 image group is controlled to be replaced with another image also corresponding to the June 18, 2001 image group. That is, as recited in amended independent claim 23, the third display control unit controls display of other photographed image data included in each group and not displayed within the predetermined number of simultaneously displayed photographed image data, by changing the predetermined number of photographed image data to be simultaneously displayed in each group, while maintaining the display control of the first and second display control units.

In Rothmuller et al, the remaining (undisplayed) images taken on June 18, 2001 cannot be recognized in the calendar view display state shown in Fig. 4 thereof. In Rothmuller et al, in order to view the remaining (undisplayed) photographed images taken on June 18, 2001, the calendar view display state needs to be changed to a list display state of all the images taken on

June 18, 2001. And in the list display state, images taken on each day cannot be recognized.

Anderson et al, moreover, has merely been cited for the disclosure of an image processing unit, and it is respectfully submitted that this reference also does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described display control technique of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if the teachings of Rothmuller et al and Anderson et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure and method of the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 23, 32 and 33, and all of the claims respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Rothmuller et al, taken singly or in combination with Anderson et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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